

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



OnCampus ecoAmbassadors

OnCampus ecoAmbassadors are college students who implement projects from EPA's partnership programs to help carry out the Agency's mission to protect human health and the environment. The program is open to ANY college student, regardless of program, age, or background. All interested students are encouraged to participate.

Did you know?

- Thirty percent of energy consumed in buildings is used unnecessarily or inefficiently.
- Nearly 5 million buildings in the U.S., including universities, are responsible for nearly 20 percent of both the nation's energy use and greenhouse gas emissions at a cost of over \$100 billion per year.
- As a result of the 2010 National Building Competition, 14 buildings reduced their total greenhouse gas emissions by 4,896 metric tons, which is about the same as, nearly 940 vehicles off the road and the annual electricity use of nearly 600 homes.

Learn More

ENERGY STAR® is a joint voluntary program of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) that promotes energy-efficient products and practices to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. ENERGY STAR helps individuals, schools, businesses, universities, and other organizations save money and protect their environment by improving energy performance. For more information, please visit: www.energystar.gov.



ENERGY STAR Energy Competition

On April 27, 2010, EPA launched the first-ever National Building Competition. Teams representing fourteen buildings of all shapes and sizes located around the country went head-to-head to see who could work off the waste with help from EPA's ENERGY STAR program and reduce their energy use the most. The ENERGY STAR Energy Competition is a way for students to host an energy efficiency contest among residence halls or other buildings on their own campus.

Goals of the ENERGY STAR Energy Competition

- Improve the energy efficiency of your campus by motivating students with a competition to save energy
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- Educate students about links between energy use and the environment
- Lead your school to become an ENERGY STAR partner

If You're Interested In:

- Planning fun events to get students interested in energy efficiency
- Meeting new people
- Designing creative messages
- Empowering and motivating students to change their energy behavior

...then the ENERGY STAR Energy Competition is for you!

See page 2 for a step-by-step checklist for the ENERGY STAR Energy Competition.



Students Taking Action

In 2010, 14 buildings competed in the first-ever ENERGY STAR National Building Competition, including the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's Morrison Residence Hall and NC State's Tucker Residence Hall. The rivals competed to see who could save the most energy and spread the word about their efforts to students and the community through filming videos and uploading them to YouTube, posting on Facebook and Twitter, and hanging signs and banners.

NC State reduced its energy use by more than 10%, saving more than 1 million kBtu of energy and preventing the emissions of 104 metric tons of greenhouse gases. The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill reduced their energy use by an impressive 35%, saving more than 11.7 million kBtu and preventing the emissions of 730 metric tons of greenhouse gases. Their impressive feat enabled the building to earn ENERGY STAR certification and win the competition. Check out videos from both schools at www.youtube.com/EPAEnergyStar.

The ENERGY STAR Energy Competition is ideal for students pursuing degrees in business, communications, education, environmental science, engineering, and public policy.

Checklist for the ENERGY STAR Energy Competition

Follow the steps below to host an ENERGY STAR Energy Competition on your campus.

1. Gain support on your campus.

Talk to representatives of your campus residence life program, campus administration, and facility management team about holding an energy efficiency competition among the residence halls or other buildings on campus. Having their support can help you unlock doors, overcome obstacles, and promote your efforts to your entire school!

2. Create a plan and set the rules.

Decide when the competition will start and end, who will be competing (i.e., a competition between dorm rooms, administration buildings, or some combination), and how the winner will be determined (through percent energy use reduction, greenhouse gases prevented, or another metric).

If your campus is sub-metered, your university housing officials or facility managers will be able to track the energy use of individual buildings. If this is the case on your campus, you can use this information to measure and track the competing buildings' monthly energy use in EPA's no-cost energy measurement and tracking tool, Portfolio Manager. Portfolio Manager enables you to track energy use, water use, greenhouse gas emissions, renewable energy production, and renewable energy certificates purchased from other producers. Visit www.energystar.gov/benchmark to learn more and sign up for a no-cost live Web conference for a demonstration and training on using Portfolio Manager.

3. Communicate results and engage residents in saving energy.

Find ways to make the results of the competition visible to everyone on campus and in the community so that students can take credit for and own their success. Post results of the competition in residence hall lobbies, the student union, and other high-traffic areas, as well as via social media outlets. This is an excellent way to send a message to university administrators that students care about energy efficiency, and it provides an incentive (sometimes a public relations incentive) for administrators to implement additional improvements on campus. Follow the tips on the right for engaging fellow students in the competition.

4. Celebrate success!

If possible, provide a prize for students living in the residence hall that improves energy efficiency the most during the set timeframe. Host an event, and if any of your buildings are eligible, be sure to apply for the ENERGY STAR. For details about applying, visit www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=evaluate_performance.bus_portfoliomanager_intro.

5. Fill out your completion form.

Record the information that you are required to report to EPA on the event completion form, including your name, date of the event, name of your college, a description of the event or events, the number of interactions (include any interesting comments), and additional comments.

Resources

ENERGY STAR Website

Download the Student Activity Guide and get other great ideas for saving energy on your campus.

www.energystar.gov/highered

Get tips and ideas from other buildings that are competing to save energy in EPA's ENERGY STAR National Building Competition.

www.energystar.gov/buildingcontest

Learn more about EPA's Portfolio Manager.

www.energystar.gov/benchmark

Tips for Engaging Students

1. Hold a kick-off event to announce the competition and introduce the competitors.
2. Hang posters and signs, send periodic emails, or distribute door hangers and other giveaways with energy-saving tips.
3. Use social media to create a Facebook group for the competition.
4. Run an internal competition to see who can submit the funniest photo or most creative video about how they're saving energy.
5. Update competitors on progress to keep them motivated.
6. Hold an announcement party and, if possible, reward winners with pizza, gift cards, or some other incentive.

EPA Contact Info

ENERGY STAR Hotline
(888) STAR-YES; (888) 782-7937

EPA OnCampus Team
EPAOnCampus@epa.gov

EPA OnCampus Websites

Visit the EPA website at
www.epa.gov/ecoambassadors/oncampus



Join the conversation at
www.facebook.com/epaoncampus